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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,079	07/10/2001	Dong-Hoon Lee	8733.464.00	7082
30827	7590	07/26/2004	EXAMINER	
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006			RUDE, TIMOTHY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/901,079	LEE ET AL. <i>(Signature)</i>
Examiner	Art Unit	
Timothy L Rude	2883	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims

1. Claims 1, 2, 16, and 30 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 7-16, and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Sakamoto et al (Sakamoto) USPAT 6,507,382 B1 and Kim USPAT 5,581,382.

As to claim 1, APA discloses an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device comprising:

first and second substrates, 30 and 32 respectively;
a gate line, 50, arranged in one direction on the first substrate;
a common line, 54, arranged on the first substrate;
a gate insulation layer, 70, on the first substrate;

Art Unit: 2883

a data line, 62, on the gate insulation layer;
a first passivation layer, 74, on the gate insulation layer, and a plurality of common electrodes, 54a, an insulating layer over the common electrodes, and a plurality of pixel electrodes, 66a, on said insulating layer, and
a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates..

APA does not explicitly disclose a common electrode 1) in contact with the first passivation layer; a second passivation layer on the first passivation layer; a pixel electrode on the second passivation layer, and 2) wherein the second passivation layer is an inorganic material.

Sakamoto teaches 1), (entire patent, especially embodiment 2) in Drawings 3(a) and 3(b), the use of a common electrode, 3 (col. 8, line 23 through col. 10, line 7), on a protective overcoat layer, 12 (Applicant's the first passivation layer); an interlayer film, 13 (Applicant's second passivation layer) on the first passivation layer; and a pixel electrode, 14, on the second passivation layer to allow for manufacture of a color display that prevents color unevenness for better display performance (col. 4, lines 1-2).

Sakamoto is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to move the plurality of common electrodes of APA to be on and in contact with the first passivation layer; a second passivation layer on the first passivation layer; and a pixel electrode on the second passivation layer to allow for easy manufacture of a color display that prevents color unevenness for better display performance.

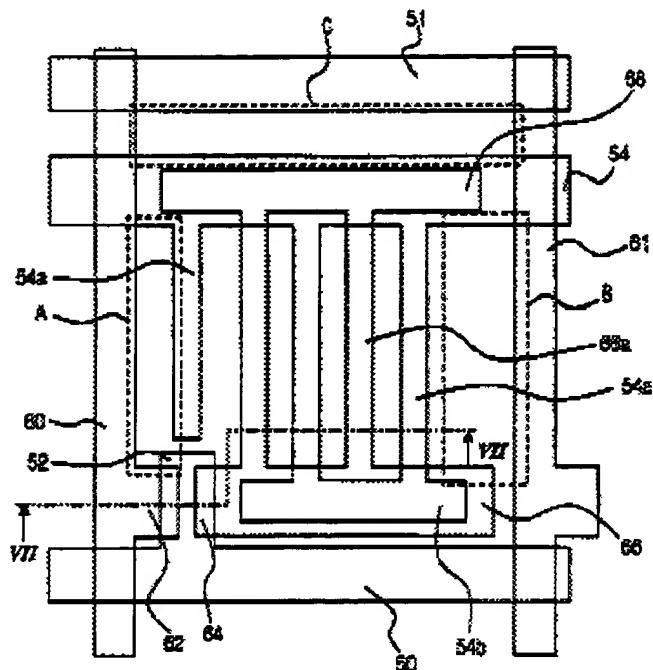
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA with the common electrode on the first passivation layer; a second passivation layer on the first passivation layer; and a pixel electrode on the second passivation layer of Sakamoto to allow for manufacture of a color display that prevents color unevenness for better display performance.

Kim teaches 2) wherein the second passivation layer is a nitride layer (Applicant's inorganic material) to prevent moisture penetration and resulting damage due to said moisture penetration (improves display service life) (col. 5, lines 30-48).

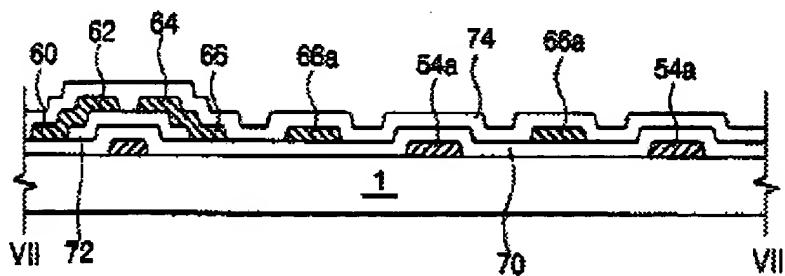
Kim is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add a second passivation layer that is an inorganic material to prevent moisture penetration and resulting damage due to said moisture penetration to improve display service life.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA with a second passivation layer that is an inorganic material of Kim to prevent moisture penetration and resulting damage due to said moisture penetration to improve display service life.

APA, Figure 6:



APA, Figure 7D:



Sakamoto :

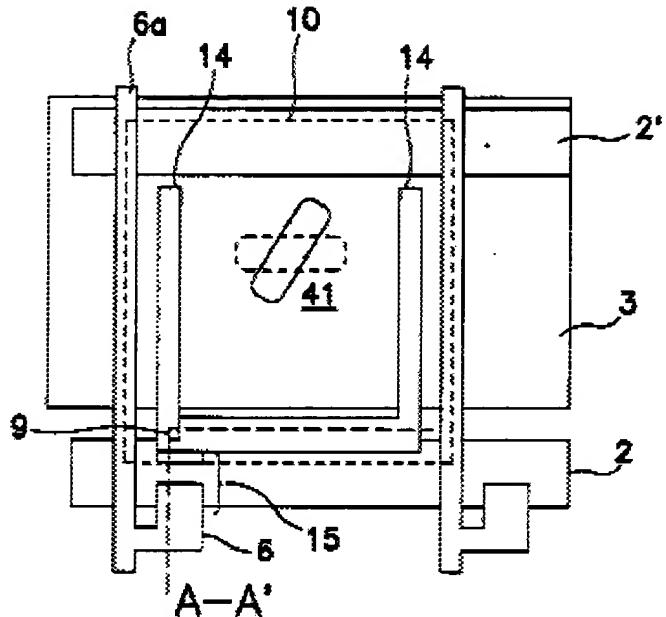
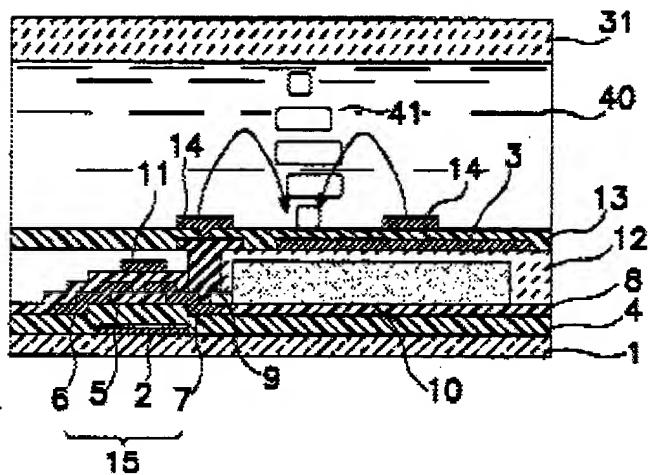


FIG. 3(a)



As to claim 7, APA discloses a device wherein the common line, 54, is parallel with the gate line, 50, and spaced apart from the gate line.

As to claim 8, APA discloses a device wherein the data line, 60, is perpendicular to the gate line, 50.

As to claim 9, APA discloses a device further comprising a thin film transistor at a crossover point of the gate line, 50, and the data line, 60.

As to claim 10, APA discloses a device wherein the thin film transistor includes a gate electrode, 52, an active layer, 72, and source, 62, and drain, 64, electrodes.

As to claims 11 and 12, APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim disclose the device of claim 1.

APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the first passivation layer includes a plurality of common line contact holes and wherein each common electrode is electrically connected with the common line through the corresponding common line contact hole.

Sakamoto, as combined above, discloses a device wherein the first passivation layer includes a contact hole for connecting the pixel electrode (per Figure 3(b)).

Note that in considering a reference, it is proper to take into account not only specific teachings of the reference but also the inferences which one skilled in the art would reasonably be expected to draw therefrom (MPEP 2144.01). Also, mere duplication of parts is not patentably distinct. Examiner considers Sakamoto to render obvious the need to provide contact holes as needed to electrically connect the

common electrodes of Sakamoto on the first passivation layer to the common line of APA that is below said first passivation layer.

Sakamoto is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add contact holes in the first passivation layer as needed to connect a plurality of common electrodes to the common line of APA.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the passivation layer of APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim with the contact holes of Sakamoto to connect a plurality of common electrodes to the common line.

As to claims 13 and 14, Sakamoto discloses a device wherein the second passivation layer includes a drain contact hole to electrically connect the pixel electrode to the drain (per Figure 3(B)).

As to claim 15, APA discloses a device wherein each pixel electrode is arranged between the adjacent common electrodes.

As to claim 16, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming would have been obvious given the structure above.

As to claim 24, APA discloses the use of Al, Cr, Mo, and W for the first and second metal layers (Specification, Page 6, lines 10-11). The steps of manufacturing

comprising forming, depositing, and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

As to claims 25-29, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming, depositing, patterning, and making electrically connected, would have been obvious given the structure above.

3. Claims 2-3 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shin et al (Shin) USPAT 6,356,328 B1.

As to claims 2 and 3, APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim disclose the device of claim 1.

APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the common and pixel electrodes are formed of the transparent conductive material.

Shin teaches the use of common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD (Abstract and col. 3, lines 37-47).

Shin is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add common and pixel electrodes formed of the

transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim with the common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO of Shin to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

As to claims 17-20, the steps of manufacturing comprising depositing and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

4. Claims 4 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Chang et al (Chang) USPAT 6,163,355.

As to claim 4, APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim disclose the device of claim 1. APA in view Michiaki do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the gate insulation layer and the second passivation layer are one of Silicon Nitride (SiN_x) and Silicon Oxide (SiO_2).

Chang teaches that SiN_x is used as a passivation layer in a conventional LCD.

Chang is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use SiN_x as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim with SiN_x of Chang as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer (MPEP 2144.07).

As to claim 23, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming, depositing, and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

5. Claims 5-6 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Akiyama et al (Akiyama) USPAT 6,414,729 B1.

As to claims 5 and 6, APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim disclose the device of claim 1.

APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the first passivation layer is formed of an organic material, wherein said organic material is one of benzocyclobutene (BCB) and acryl.

Akiyama teaches the use of an organic resin film such as BCB for the insulation layers (col. 9, lines 59-67) to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines (col. 2, lines 22-24).

Akiyama is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use of BCB for the insulation layers to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim with the BCB insulation layers of Akiyama to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

As to claims 21 and 22, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming, depositing, and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

6. Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim, as applied to claims 1-29 above, and further in view of Wakagi et al (Wakagi) USPAT 6,300,995 B1.

As to claim 30, APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim disclose the device above, wherein the first passivation layer is Applicant's second insulation layer and the second passivation layer is Applicant's third insulation layer.

APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim does not explicitly disclose a device wherein a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes.

Wakagi teaches in Figures 6 and 7 a device wherein a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes to reduce losses in the driving voltage applied to the liquid crystal, by providing an active matrix substrate in which degradation of the metal electrode is prevented in a liquid crystal display device (col. 2, lines 6-10).

Wakagi is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes to reduce losses in the driving voltage applied to the liquid crystal, by providing an active matrix substrate in which degradation of the metal electrode is prevented in a liquid crystal display device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Sakamoto and Kim with a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the

second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes of Wakagi to reduce losses in the driving voltage applied to the liquid crystal, by providing an active matrix substrate in which degradation of the metal electrode is prevented in a liquid crystal display device.

As to claim 31, APA discloses, in Figure 6, pixel electrodes electrically communicated with one another via a transverse pixel electrode perpendicular to the common electrodes.

7. Claims 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi, as applied to claims 1-31 above, and further in view of Shin.

As to claim 32 and 33, APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi disclose the device above.

APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the common and pixel electrodes are formed of the transparent conductive material.

Shin teaches the use of common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD (Abstract and col. 3, lines 37-47).

Shin is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi with the common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO of Shin to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

8. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi, as applied to claims 1-31 above, and further in view of Chang.

As to claim 43, APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi disclose the device above.

APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the gate insulation layer and the second passivation layer are one of Silicon Nitride (SiN_x) and Silicon Oxide (SiO_2).

Chang teaches that SiN_x is used as a passivation layer in a conventional LCD.

Chang is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use SiN_x as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi with SiN_x of Chang as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer (MPEP 2144.07).

9. Claim 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi, as applied to claims 1-31 above, and further in view of Akiyama.

As to claims 35 and 36, APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi disclose the device above.

APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the first passivation layer is formed of an organic material, wherein said organic material is one of benzocyclobutene (BCB) and acryl.

Akiyama teaches the use of an organic resin film such as BCB for the insulation layers (col. 9, lines 59-67) to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines (col. 2, lines 22-24).

Akiyama is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use of BCB for the insulation layers to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Sakamoto, Kim, and Wakagi with the BCB insulation layers of Akiyama to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L Rude whose telephone number is (571) 272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

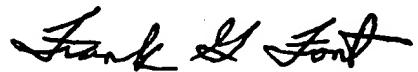
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2883

tlr



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800



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MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006				RUDE, TIMOTHY L
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2871

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/901,079	LEE ET AL. Art Unit 2671	
	Examiner Timothy L Rude		PW

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 14 April 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

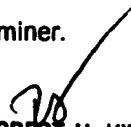
Claim(s) rejected: 1-36.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)(PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: _____.


ROBERT H. KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Continuation of 2. NOTE: It is respectfully pointed out that the proposed amendments to all three base claims would add limitations drawn to common electrodes in contact with the first passivation layer and an inorganic material used for the second passivation layer that have not been considered and are likely to require further search. Please consider limitations drawn to common electrodes -- in direct physical contact -- with the first passivation layer (all three base claims), and please also consider limitations wherein common electrodes -- ohmically -- contact the common line. In general, "contact" must be qualified as to ohmic, direct physical, or indirect (unspecified) contact. Left unqualified, a given piece of structure is usually considered to be in contact with all other pieces of structure in a given device unit .



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30827 7590 01/14/2004

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

RUDE, TIMOTHY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2871	

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

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	Examiner Timothy L Rude	Art Unit 2871	

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- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

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Advisory

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings and Claims

1. Figures 1-7D should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. These figures illustrate a conventional device per Specification Page 3, line 19, Page 4, lines 21 and 22, and Page 11, lines 12-18. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance. Please note that Drawings filed 03 September 2003 cite the wrong Application number, but the proposed correction of the labeling would be approved by Examiner.

Claims 9, 12, 16, and 30 are amended necessitating new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 7-16, and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Michiaki et al (Michiaki) Japanese Patent Abstract Publication 2000-111957.

As to claim 1, APA discloses an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device comprising:

first and second substrates, 30 and 32 respectively;
a gate line, 50, arranged in one direction on the first substrate;
a common line, 54, arranged on the first substrate;
a gate insulation layer, 70, on the first substrate;
a data line, 62, on the gate insulation layer;
a first passivation layer, 74, on the gate insulation layer, and a plurality of common electrodes, 54a, an insulating layer over the common electrodes, and a plurality of pixel electrodes, 66a, on said insulating layer, and
a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates..

APA does not explicitly disclose a common electrode on the first passivation layer; a second passivation layer on the first passivation layer;
a pixel electrode on the second passivation layer.

Michiaki teaches in Drawing 1, the use of a common electrode, 103, on a protective coat, 108 (Applicant's the first passivation layer); an overcoat layer, 112 (Applicant's second passivation layer) on the first passivation layer; and

a pixel electrode, 114, on the second passivation layer to allow for easy manufacture of a color display that prevents color unevenness for better display performance (Abstract and [0013].

Michiaki is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add a common electrode on the first passivation layer; a second passivation layer on the first passivation layer; and a pixel electrode on the second passivation layer to allow for easy manufacture of a color display that prevents color unevenness for better display performance.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA with the common electrode on the first passivation layer; a second passivation layer on the first passivation layer; and a pixel electrode on the second passivation layer to allow for easy manufacture of a color display that prevents color unevenness for better display performance.

As to claim 7, APA discloses a device wherein the common line, 54, is parallel with the gate line, 50, and spaced apart from the gate line.

As to claim 8, APA discloses a device wherein the data line, 60, is perpendicular to the gate line, 50.

As to claim 9, APA discloses a device further comprising a thin film transistor at a crossover point of the gate line, 50, and the data line, 60.

As to claim 10, APA discloses a device wherein the thin film transistor includes a gate electrode, 52, an active layer, 72, and source, 62, and drain, 64, electrodes.

As to claims 11 and 12, APA in view Michiaki disclose the device of claim 1.

APA in view Michiaki do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the first passivation layer includes a plurality of common line contact holes and wherein each common electrode is electrically connected with the common line through the corresponding common line contact hole.

Michiaki discloses a device wherein the first passivation layer includes a contact hole for connecting the pixel electrode.

Note that in considering a reference, it is proper to take into account not only specific teachings of the reference but also the inferences which one skilled in the art would reasonably be expected to draw therefrom (MPEP 2144.01).

Michiaki is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add contact holes in the passivation layer as needed to connect a plurality of common electrodes to the common line.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the passivation layer of APA

in view of Michiaki with the contact holes of Michiaki to connect a plurality of common electrodes to the common line.

As to claims 13 and 14, Michiaki discloses a device wherein the second passivation layer includes a drain contact hole to electrically connect the pixel electrode to the drain.

As to claim 15, APA discloses a device wherein each pixel electrode is arranged between the adjacent common electrodes.

As to claim 16, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming would have been obvious given the structure above.

As to claim 24, APA discloses the use of Al, Cr, Mo, and W for the first and second metal layers (Specification, Page 6, lines 10-11). The steps of manufacturing comprising forming, depositing, and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

As to claims 25-29, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming, depositing, patterning, and making electrically connected, would have been obvious given the structure above.

4. Claims 2-3 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view Michiaki, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shin et al (Shin) USPAT 6,356,328 B1.

As to claims 2 and 3, APA in view Michiaki disclose the device of claim 1.

APA in view Michiaki do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the common and pixel electrodes are formed of the transparent conductive material.

Shin teaches the use of common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD (Abstract and col. 3, lines 37-47).

Shin is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA and Michiaki with the common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO of Shin to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

As to claims 17-20, the steps of manufacturing comprising depositing and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

5. Claims 4 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view Michiaki, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Chang et al (Chang) USPAT 6,163,355.

As to claim 4, APA in view Michiaki disclose the device of claim 1. APA in view Michiaki do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the gate insulation layer and the second passivation layer are one of Silicon Nitride (SiN_x) and Silicon Oxide (SiO_2).

Chang teaches that SiN_x is used as a passivation layer in a conventional LCD. Chang is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use SiN_x as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view Michiaki with SiN_x of Chang as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer (MPEP 2144.07).

As to claim 23, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming, depositing, and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

6. Claims 5-6 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view Michiaki, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Akiyama et al (Akiyama) USPAT 6,414,729 B1.

As to claims 5 and 6, APA in view Michiaki disclose the device of claim 1. APA in view of Michiaki do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the first passivation layer is formed of an organic material, wherein said organic material is one of benzocyclobutene (BCB) and acryl.

Akiyama teaches the use of an organic resin film such as BCB for the insulation layers (col. 9, lines 59-67) to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines (col. 2, lines 22-24).

Akiyama is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use of BCB for the insulation layers to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Michiaki with the BCB insulation layers of Akiyama to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

As to claims 21 and 22, the steps of manufacturing comprising forming, depositing, and patterning would have been obvious given the structure above.

7. Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Michiaki, as applied to claims 1-29 above, and further in view of Wakagi et al (Wakagi) USPAT 6,300,995 B1.

As to claim 30, APA in view of Michiaki disclose the device above, wherein the first passivation layer is Applicant's second insulation layer and the second passivation layer is Applicant's third insulation layer.

APA in view of Michiaki does not explicitly disclose a device wherein a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes.

Wakagi teaches in Figures 6 and 7 a device wherein a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes to reduce losses in the driving voltage applied to the liquid crystal, by providing an active matrix substrate in which degradation of the metal electrode is prevented in a liquid crystal display device (col. 2, lines 6-10).

Wakagi is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes to reduce losses in the driving voltage applied to the liquid crystal, by providing an active matrix substrate in which degradation of the metal electrode is prevented in a liquid crystal display device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Michiaki with a plurality of first contact holes through the first and second insulation layers over the common line; and a plurality of common electrodes on the second insulation layer, wherein the common electrodes contact the common line via the first contact holes of Wakagi to reduce losses in the driving voltage applied to the liquid crystal, by providing an active matrix substrate in which degradation of the metal electrode is prevented in a liquid crystal display device.

As to claim 31, APA discloses, in Figure 6, pixel electrodes electrically communicated with one another via a transverse pixel electrode perpendicular to the common electrodes.

8. Claims 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Michiaki and Wakagi, as applied to claims 1-31 above, and further in view of Shin.

As to claim 32 and 33, APA in view Michiaki and Wakagi disclose the device above.

APA in view Michiaki and Wakagi do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the common and pixel electrodes are formed of the transparent conductive material.

Shin teaches the use of common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD (Abstract and col. 3, lines 37-47).

Shin is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA and Michiaki and Wakagi with the common and pixel electrodes formed of the transparent conductive material ITO of Shin to increase the aperture ratio and transmittance of the LCD.

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9. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Michiaki and Wakagi, as applied to claims 1-31 above, and further in view of Chang.

As to claim 43, APA in view Michiaki and Wakagi disclose the device above.

APA in view Michiaki and Wakagi do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the gate insulation layer and the second passivation layer are one of Silicon Nitride (SiN_x) and Silicon Oxide (SiO_2).

Chang teaches that SiN_x is used as a passivation layer in a conventional LCD.

Chang is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use SiN_x as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view Michiaki and Wakagi with SiN_x of Chang as an art-recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming a passivation layer (MPEP 2144.07).

10. Claim 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Michiaki and Wakagi, as applied to claims 1-31 above, and further in view of Akiyama.

As to claims 35 and 36, APA in view Michiaki and Wakagi disclose the device above.

APA in view of Michiaki and Wakagi do not explicitly disclose a device wherein the first passivation layer is formed of an organic material, wherein said organic material is one of benzocyclobutene (BCB) and acryl.

Akiyama teaches the use of an organic resin film such as BCB for the insulation layers (col. 9, lines 59-67) to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines (col. 2, lines 22-24).

Akiyama is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use of BCB for the insulation layers to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of APA in view of Michiaki and Wakagi with the BCB insulation layers of Akiyama to shield the liquid crystal layers from the scanning and signal lines.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed on 03 September 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY arguments are as follows:

- (1) Regarding the drawings, Applicants make no admittance to prior art.
- (2) Prior art and Michiaki fail to teach a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer.
- (3) Michiaki teaches a common electrode arranged in the overcoat layer on the shading section 111.

Examiner's responses to Applicant's ONLY arguments are as follows:

(1) It is respectfully pointed out that MPEP 608.01(c) (2) clearly indicates that the content of the Background of the Invention section is to provide a description of the related art that describes to the extent practical the state of the prior art or other information disclosed. Where applicable, the problems involved in the prior art or other information disclosed which are solved by the Applicant's invention should be indicated. Applicant's own reference in the Background of the Invention to Figures 1-7D as being of a "typical" and/or "conventional" device (Specification Page 3, line 19, Page 4, lines 21 and 22, and Page 11, lines 12-18) are consistent with requirement of MPEP 608.01(c) (2) to disclose such prior art, and the drawing labels should so reflect per

MPEP 608.02(g). Please see also MPEP 707.05(b) which states that MPEP 609 sets forth the positive guidelines for Applicants, their Attorneys and Agents who desire to submit prior art for consideration by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) It is respectfully pointed out that APA teaches a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer per rejections above.

(3) It is respectfully pointed out that Michiaki may disclose additional structure since Applicant's claims are in comprising format.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L Rude whose telephone number is (703) 305-0418. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on (703) 305-3492. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.



Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

TLR
January 13, 2004



ROBERT H. KIM
SUPPLY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800